

## Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0333

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, UR, US

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA PRESENTATION ON U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY AND COMMENT. LENINGRAD PROPAGANDA LECTURER MARCH 16 GAVE PREPARED PRESENTATION ON PRESENT STATE OF U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS. FOR SECOND TIME HERE IN RECENT DAYS, THERE WERE ALMOST NOSTALGIC REFERENCES TO NIXON PRESIDENCY. IN PRESENT INSTANCE, THERE WAS NO ACTUAL CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT FORD, OTHER THAN TO NOTE HE IS "DIFFERENT" FROM NIXON, BUT CONTRAST WAS CLEARLY DRAWN BETWEEN PRAISE FOR HEYDAY OF U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS IN NIXON PERIOD, AND THE PRESENT. IF THIS LINE CONTINUES, IT MAY INDICATE DESIRE TO DRAW CAREFUL LINE FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION BETWEEN PERIOD OF PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENT PERIOD OF MORE POLITICAL VARIABLES, ALL THE WHILE STRESSING CONTINUITY OF DETENTE AND DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVED U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS. MARCH 16 LECTURER NOTED THAT DETENTE INVOLVES CLASSICAL STRUGGLE WHERE "NOT EVERYBYEAR WILL SEE AS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS AS IN RECENT YEARS." COMMENTING ON STATE OF U.S. - SOVIET TRADE RELATIONS, PROPAGANDIST SAID IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THERE COULD BE ANY CHANGE IN U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION BEFORE NEXT YEAR'S U.S. ELECTIONS. REFERRING TO FORD-BREZHNEV SUMMIT OF LAST YEAR, HE NOTED THAT VLADIVSTOK SITE OF MEETING WAS CHOSEN "NOT BY CHANCE" IN ORDER TO PROVE (DOKAZAT') TO CHINA THAT IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED PART OF SOVIET UNION.  
END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

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2. LENINGRAD PROPAGANDA LECTURER IN SUNDAY, MARCH 16,

PRESENTATION DEVOTED MOST OF PREPARED REMARKS TO U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS. SPEAKER WAS YURIY MIKHAILOVICH BUZULUKOV, GUEST LECTURER FROM MOSCOW BRANCH OF ZNANIYE (KNOWLEDGE) SOCIETY. FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENTATION ON U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS, DIVIDED INTO SPECIFIC TOPICS WHICH HE ADDRESSED.

3. SOVIET CONCERN OVER PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION GERALD FORD BECAME THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE UNITED STATES, WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS AROSE FOR THE SOVIET UNION: (A) WHAT WOULD BE THE NATURE OF THE NEW PRESIDENT; (B) HOW WOULD HE FULFILL EXISTING U.S. - SOVIET AGREEMENTS; (C) WOULD HE CONTINUE THE COURSE OF HIS PREDECESSOR; AND (D) WHAT SORT OF POLITICAL FIGURE HE WOULD BE. THIS IS WHY THE PERSONAL CONTACT IN VLADIVSTOK WAS VERY SIGNIFICANT.

#### 4. THE NATURE OF U.S. - SOVIET DETENTE

ONE MUST LOOK AT THE REASONS FOR BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION. AFTER ALL, THE AMERICANS ARE NOT FRIENDS AND ALLIES; THEY REMAIN CLASSICAL OPPONENTS. BUT THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION ARE GREAT POWERS AND IN WORLD POLITICS TODAY IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHO HAS THE MOST INFLUENCE OVER EVENTS. CERTAINLY, IN TODAY'S WORLD IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE ANY SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES. THE STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET UNION WAS PREDOMINANT (GOSPODSTVUYUSHCHIY) FACTOR IN THE U.S. DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. WHEN NIXON VISITED THE SOVIET UNION IN 1972 HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE SOVIET STANDING IN STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS. NUCLEAR CONFLICT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FOR THE WORLD. PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE WAS THE ONLY COURSE TO FOLLOW AND U.S. LEADERS WERE FORCED (VYNUZHDENNNY) TO SEEK IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

#### 5. PRESIDENT NIXON

NIXON WAS "PRAGMATIC, SOBER, EXPERIENCED, REALISTIC, DECISIVE, AND BOLD." FOR EXAMPLE, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS DISAGREED WITH NIXON'S SIGNING ONE OF THE FIRST SUMMIT DOCUMENTS WHICH, ROGERS SAID, INCORPORATED THE COMMUNIST CONCEPT OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE. NIXON DID NOT HESITATE TO VERRRIDE ROGERS AND PUT CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS SIGNATURE TO THE DOCUMENT. THERE WAS ALSO ANOTHER INSTANCE WHEN NIXON SIGNED AN AGREEMENT OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS OWN NEGOTIATING TEAM.

#### 6. PRESIDENT FORD

FORD IS DIFFERENT FROM NIXON. LITTLE WAS KNOWN ABOUT FORD UNTIL HE BECAME VICE-PRESIDENT. WE KNEW THAT HE HAD SERVED IN THE WAR,

WAS A LAWYER, AND HAD SERVED 25 YEARS IN CONGRESS, BUT THAT WAS ABOUT ALL. IN CONGRESS, HE WAS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST DISCIPLINED MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. IN RECENT YEARS, HE HAD SUPPORTED NIXON'S COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. PRESIDENT FORD HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE NATURE OF U.S. INTERNAL PROBLEMS -- INFLATION, ETC. -- WHICH CAN AFFECT HIS CHANCES FOR ELECTION IN 1976. FORD WILL RUN FOR OFFICE, BUT THE DEMOCRATS HAVE AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO WIN.

#### 7. THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT

THE VLADIVOSTOK SITE FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN FORD AND BREZHNEV WAS CHOSEN NOT BY CHANCE. IT IS NOT FAR FROM THE CHINESE BORDER AND THE MEETING THERE WITH A POWERFUL WORLD LEADER WOULD PROVE TO CHINA THAT THE AREA IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED PART OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ARMS WAS IMPORTANT AND THERE ARE FAVORABLE PERSPECTIVES THAT A 10 - YEAR AGREEMENT WILL BE READY FOR SIGNING WHEN BREZHNEV VISITS THE U.S.

#### 8. TRADE

U.S. - SOVIET TRADE IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. PRESIDENT FORD HAS DONE A GOOD DEAL (NEMALO) TO OBTAIN MFN FOR THE SOVIET UNION, BUT CONGRESS HAS ITS OWN POSITIONS. IT IS A LONG STORY, BUT THE TRADE LEGISLATION, AS PASSED, COUPLES EXTENSION OF MFN TO SOVIET EMIGRATION. AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN KISSINGER AND JACKSON, THE SOVIET UNION COULD "NOT REMAIN QUIET." THE DECEMBER 20, 1974 STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET POSITION SAID THERE COULD BE NO TOLERATION OF INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL MATTERS. MFN WAS FINALLY GRANTED SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION. THE SECOND LAW ON EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CREDITS -- AND THE BANK WAS CREATED ORIGINALLY TO AID U.S. - SOVIET TRADE -- RESTRICTED CREDITS TO \$300 MILLION FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. EXIM CREDITS  
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ARE FAR LOWER THAN THOSE PRIVATE BANKS. IN VIEW OF THE MFN AND CREDITS DISCRIMINATION, THE SOVIET UNION WILL MAKE NO MORE LEND LEASE REPAYMENTS AND IS NOT BOUND BY THE 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT. THE DISCRIMINATION EVEN HURTS THE U.S. THE AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN KENDALL HAS SAID THAT \$2 BILLION IN CREDITS TO THE SOVIET UNION WOULD IMMEDIATELY CREATE THOUSANDS OF NEEDED JOBS FOR AMERICANS. IT IS HARD TO SAY WHEN THIS WILL CHANGE NOW, BUT IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE IN U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION BEFORE NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS IN THE U.S. U.S. - SOVIET TRADE WILL THUS CONTINUE AT THE PRESENT ANNUAL LEVEL OF 700,000 TO 800,000 RUBLES.  
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